

highest level of commendation a President can give in recognition of those who have contributed their time and energy to helping others.

Today, I'm going to talk about—you'll hear the stories of six folks who have served as such a wonderful example. I mean, not only have these people helped somebody but they served as an example for others. They're true leaders in their own quiet way and their own humble way: Junior Salazar of Bradenton, Florida; Marie Arcos of Houston, Texas; Manuel Fonseca of Nashville, Tennessee; Elmer Carreno of Silver Spring, Maryland; Maria Hines of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and John Diaz of Crowley, Colorado.

Their efforts are helping children to learn to read, improving fire safety in schools and communities, and helping more Hispanics achieve the dream of a college education. In the wake of the hurricanes, they've helped set up emergency clinics, provided spiritual counseling to the displaced, just simple acts, such as reading stories to children whose families had lost their homes. Today, we're here to honor your service, and we appreciate so very much what you have done to help lift the spirit of the country.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we thank the Hispanic community that has helped build and shape our country in so many ways. America is a better place because of your contributions. I join all Americans in celebrating the accomplishments and wishing our Hispanic communities all across the country continued success.

I want to thank you all for coming. And now, I'm going to ask the military aide to please announce the Volunteer Service Awards. *Y por fin, que Dios les bendiga.*

[At this point, Maj. Christian G. Cabaniss, USMC, Marine Corps Military Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.]

The President. I hope you can tell why I was so looking forward to this event. There's nothing like being able to thank six quiet heroes, helping to improve somebody's life, and at the same time, improving the spirit of the country. What a joyous occasion. Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:46 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Herculez Gomez, forward, L.A. Galaxy; Emilio Estefan, Jr., president, Estefan Enterprises, and member, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; and Eleuterio Salazar, Jr., President's Volunteer Service Award recipient. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Increase Domestic Refining Capacity

October 7, 2005

I commend the House for passing legislation that would increase our refining capacity and help address the cost of gasoline, diesel fuels, and jet fuels. No refineries have been built in our Nation since 1976, and the recent disruptions in supply from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have demonstrated that additional refining capacity is critically needed. We must continue to promote sound energy policy to help keep prices down for small businesses and hard-working American families.

Proclamation 7942—National School Lunch Week, 2005

October 7, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has contributed to the welfare of our Nation's youth and the academic mission of our schools. Each year during National School Lunch Week, we recognize this valuable program and highlight the continuing importance of providing America's children with access to nutritious meals.

Today, nearly 100,000 public and private schools and residential child care institutions are implementing the National School Lunch Program, providing fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, and other nutritious food choices to an average of 29 million children each